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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7019**Chikashi INOKUCHI et al. : **Docket No. 2001_1701A**Serial No. 09/987,384 : **Group Art Unit 2651**

Filed November 14, 2001 :

**OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR READING INFORMATION****THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.****INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract (Reference AK),

References EP 0930617 and U.S. Patent No. 6,081,490 correspond to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-293926 and Japanese Patent Application No. 11-203785, respectively.

5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Chikashi INOKUCHI et al.

By 

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February 5, 2002

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: February 5, 2002

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2001_1701ASERIAL NO.
09/987,384APPLICANT
Chikashi INOKUCHI et al.FILING DATE
November 14, 2001GROUP
2651

FEB 05 2002

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
<i>gll</i>	AA	6,081,490	6/2000	Kuroda et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
<i>gll</i>	AJ	0 930 617	7/1999	EP			
<i>gll</i>	AK	11-203785	7/1999	JP			Abstr.
<i>gll</i>	AL	10-293926	11/1998	JP			Abstr.
<i>gll</i>	AM	10-134386	5/1998	JP			Abstr.
	AN						

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

Patricia Vincent

DATE CONSIDERED

2/25/2004

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.